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*Letters from William Franklin*  
*to William Strahan :: :: ::*

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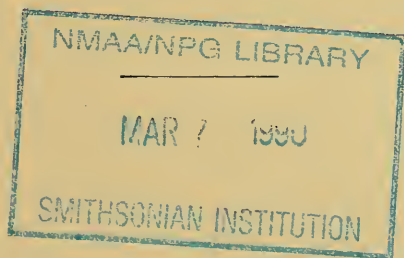
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LETTERS FROM  
WILLIAM FRANKLIN  
TO  
WILLIAM STRAHAN

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION  
AND NOTES BY

CHARLES HENRY HART

AUTHOR OF "WHO WAS THE MOTHER OF FRANKLIN'S SON."



PHILADELPHIA  
1911

FIFTY COPIES REPRINTED FROM "THE PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF  
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY" FOR OCTOBER, 1911.

## LETTERS FROM WILLIAM FRANKLIN TO WILLIAM STRAHAN.

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY CHARLES HENRY HART.

The following letters were copied several years ago from the originals that belonged to J. Pearson & Co., of London, England, but which since have been distributed among different autograph collections, many of them being in this country, and the first one is in the possession of the editor. They are of considerable interest from the writer's personal and political position, which is intensified by the recent answer given to the old historical query "Who Was the Mother of Franklin's Son." William Franklin, the writer of these letters, was the son of Benjamin and Deborah Franklin<sup>2</sup> and was born *circa* September 1, 1730, and died in England, November 17, 1813. During the French war, he became a captain in the Pennsylvania forces and gained praise for his conduct at Ticonderoga. He was comptroller of the Post Office for two years of his father's administration as Postmaster General, and in 1757 accompanied his father to London, where he read law and was admitted to the bar. A very interesting letter from William Franklin, of this period, came to light at the sale in Boston, on June 21, 1911, of the autograph collection of Miss Mary B. Hathaway, of New Bedford, Mass. The auctioneers' catalogue says "it is mainly a love letter to his dear Betsey (Miss Graeme), afterward his wife." This note was so curious, as Elizabeth Graeme did not become his wife, but, long after this letter, married Hugh Henry Ferguson, while William Franklin, as we shall see, married Miss Downes, whose name also was "Betsey," that I endeavored to obtain

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<sup>1</sup>Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. xxxv. p. 308.

<sup>2</sup>Id., p. 314.

the source of the information given in the note and how the name of Elizabeth Graeme was suggested as the "Betsey" of the letter; but the letter is without superscription, and unfortunately no one could or would give me the desired information. It certainly was not written to his future wife, in England, but it might very well have been written, as suggested in the catalogue, and doubtless for some good reason, to the famous Philadelphia belle and wit and poetess, "that Cat Bessie Ferguson" of *Hugh Wynne*, who at the date of the letter was in her eighteenth year. Dr. Benjamin Rush, who was on terms of familiar intimacy at Graeme Hall, writes: "About her seventeenth year she was addressed by a citizen of Philadelphia of respectable connections and character. She gave him her heart with the promise of her hand upon his return from London, whither he went to complete his education in the law. From causes which it is not necessary to detail, the contract of marriage, at a future day was broken, but not without much suffering on the part of Miss Graeme."<sup>3</sup> Another one of her biographers says: "At the age of sixteen Mrs. Ferguson's wit and beauty made her a favorite. To divert her mind from a *personal disappointment* she became a writer of poems, etc." Is not this letter then the key to unlock this eighteenth century romance, and was not William Franklin the "citizen of Philadelphia" who went to London "to complete his education in the law," and his marriage to Elizabeth Downes the "personal disappointment" to Elizabeth Graeme? Certainly the circumstances fit to a turn and it is a very curious and interesting discovery. What may be a mere coincidence in this

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<sup>3</sup>Hazard's Register, Vol. 3, p. 394, from the Port Folio.

<sup>4</sup>Elizabeth Graeme Ferguson was born in Philadelphia, February 3, 1739, and died at Graeme Park, Montgomery County, Penna., February 23, 1801. Her father was Dr. Thomas Graeme, who was a physician and one of the Provincial Councillors of Penna., and her mother was the step-daughter of Sir William Keith, colonial governor of Penna., with whom Dr. Graeme had come over from Scotland.



connection is that soon after the Governor of New Jersey returned to America "Betsey" Graeme went abroad for her health, with the Rev. Richard Peters, which confirms the "suffering," on her part, mentioned by Dr. Rush. The letter, I am glad to be able to preserve.

[N. B. An eleventh hour inspection of the original manuscript shows it is addressed, at the foot of the first page, "*To Miss Graeme.*" Therefore, William Franklin, "Thou art the man."]

NEW YORK, Monday, April 11, 1757

MY DEAR BETSY

Never did any one set down to write in a worse humour. A thousand things have I to say to you, and scarce a minute to say them in. My Father is now impatiently waiting for me to assist him in an Affair that cannot be postpon'd.—Had I followed the dictates of my own inclinations, I should have pass'd the last evening in pouring out my Sou to you on paper, instead of murdering my time in a large mix'd company of both sexes; where tho' the Height of good Sense and Politeness prevail'd, they could not divert my thoughts from a certain little corner in a certain little room, with all its long train of soft attendant ideas.—However, I must stop my Imagination in its Career, or I shall not have time to tell you, that we did not arrive in this city till Friday morning;—That we found Lord Loudoun<sup>s</sup> had not wrote a single Letter to go by the Pacquet, but he told my Father he did not intend to write much by the One we proposed to sail in, and should therefore dispatch her soon;—That notwithstanding what my Lord has said, those about his Lordship think he will hardly have his dispatches ready this 8 or 10 days;—That there are several Gentlemen who talk of going Passengers with us, but I have seen only one of them whose name is

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<sup>s</sup>John Campbell, Earl of Loudoun (1705-1782), was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in North America, in 1756, but was superseded in 1758 by Lord Amherst.

Temple,<sup>6</sup> a young Gentleman, born in Boston, lately Naval Officer here, and reckon'd polite and sensible. Another is a son of General Abercrombie's,<sup>7</sup> who by frequent exercising his Talent for Mimickry, particularly the Consumptive cough of Mr. Duncan, has so impaired his Lungs as to reduce himself to the last Stage of Consumption. The others are a gent'n from Rhode Island, and a young Irish Beau now at Phila'a, of whom I know nothing about;—That the Captain of our Pacquet is so extremely ill with a Consumption that it is thought we shall be oblig'd to throw him over Board before we are a Fort-night at sea. I paid him a visit at his lodgings, found him very peevish and fretful, and tho' launching into Eternity scarce a Word escap'd him unattended by an oath.—

The Reading of your dear Letter, which I have done over and over, is the only Pleasure I have enjoyed since my Departure. Pray let me not be a Post without having one from you. The many disagreeable sensations I have felt by delaying to write to you till it was almost too late, will 'tis to be hope'd cure me of the Crime of Procrastination; and may it prove a Warning to my Betsy.

Let me be remembered to our dear Mamma and other friends is all that can be added at present by

Your ever faithful

W. FRANKLIN.

In Scotland he became acquainted with the Earl<sup>8</sup> of Bute, doubtless through his father's friend and his future

<sup>6</sup>Sir John Temple (1730-1798) was a native of Boston and married, in 1767, Elizabeth, daughter of Governor James Bowdoin, and subsequently inherited his title through his great-grandfather from a great-uncle. He was Commissioner of the Royal Navy in the Colonies, Lieut-Governor of New Hampshire, and Consul General<sup>9</sup> from England for the Eastern states. Some of his descendants have taken the name of Bowdoin.

<sup>7</sup>James Abercrombie, son of General James Abercrombie who commanded the British Army in America between the departure of Loudon and the arrival of Amherst, died in Boston, June 24, 1775, from a wound received at Bunker Hill, where he led the Grenadiers.



correspondent, William Strahan, who recommended him to Lord Halifax<sup>8</sup>, "the Father of the Colonies," as he was styled for his success in extending American commerce, who, as Secretary of State, appointed him in August, 1762, after a severe personal examination, Governor of New Jersey. A few months earlier, April 30, 1762, Oxford University had conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts at the same time as the degree of D. C. L. was given to his father. While in London he was married, September 4, 1762, to Elizabeth Downes<sup>9</sup> and took his bride to his new colony in America, reaching Philadelphia February 19, 1763, and arriving at Perth Amboy, the seat of government in New Jersey, six days later.

His appointment was not received with approbation in the colony owing to his "time serving conduct and courtierlike propensities, as he had been a Whig but became a Tory on being made Governor." In the revolutionary contest he took sides against his father, being a pronounced Loyalist, was placed under arrest at Perth Amboy and subsequently for disloyal conduct was removed to East Winsor, Conn., where he was strictly guarded for two years, until he was exchanged, November 1, 1778, for John McKinley, late President of Delaware. He repaired to New York, where he remained until September 18, 1782, when he sailed for England, where he continued to reside. Whitehead says<sup>10</sup>: "After leaving America he married again;" but I have been unable to verify the fact. The English government granted him £1800 in remuneration of his losses and a pension of £800 per annum. His conduct of course led to an estrangement with his father, but, in 1784, they became reconciled, and

<sup>8</sup>Either through erroneous transcribing or careless proof-reading this name in almost all accounts of William Franklin, is given as "Fairfax." But there was no Lord Fairfax in England at the time mentioned, Thomas, sixth Baron Fairfax (1691-1782), the friend of Washington, being then on his 5,000,000 acre estate in Virginia.

<sup>9</sup> *Vide* letter of this date *infra*.

<sup>10</sup>Contributions to East Jersey History, p. 202.

Franklin devised to him land in Nova Scotia, saying in his will "The part he acted against me in the late war, which is of public notoriety, will account for my leaving him no more of an estate he endeavored to deprive me of." In Benjamin West's picture of "The Reception of the American Loyalists by Great Britain in the Year 1783," William Franklin is introduced as "one of the prominent personages at the head of the group of figures."<sup>11</sup>

William Franklin's son, William Temple Franklin, was Secretary to his grandfather during Doctor Franklin's residence in France, representing the United States, and died there, May 25, 1823. The portrait of Governor Franklin, that illustrates this article, is doubtless from the portrait by Benjamin Wilson, mentioned in several of the letters to Strahan, and we are indebted for its use to the courtesy of the etcher, Mr. Albert Rosenthal.

William Strahan to whom the letters of Franklin were written, was an eminent printer and publicist, born in Scotland in April, 1715, where he was brought up to the composing stick. After his apprenticeship he went to London, where his ability soon raised him to prominence, so that in 1770 he was enabled to purchase a share of the patent for King's printer. He was the publisher and intimate friend of most of the prominent writers of his time, including Hume, Gibbon, Adam Smith, William Robertson and Blackstone, and for years acted as banker to Doctor Johnson. Johnson, who was noted for his parsimony, would get Strahan, when in parliament, to frank his letters, saying, "When I write to Scotland, I employ Strahan to frank my letters that he may have consequence of appearing a parliament man among his countrymen." Letter writing was one of Strahan's

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<sup>11</sup> Whitehead's *Contributions to East Jersey History*, 1856, p. 202. This picture is also described from an engraving by Henry Moses, in Sabine's *American Loyalists*, 1847, p. 527, and is reproduced in Wilson's *History of New York*, 1892, Vol. 2, p. 574, yet no trace of the original painting or of an impression of the engraving by Moses can be found. Perhaps this note may be more successful and reveal one or both.

favorite occupations<sup>12</sup> and his correspondence with Doctor Franklin began as early as 1744, although the two did not meet personally until thirteen years later, at the house of Peter Collinson, and their friendship continued through life. It was to Strahan that Franklin wrote his famous letter of "July 5, 1775," ending "You are my Enemy and I am yours B. Franklin," which has been looked upon generally as a serious break between the two friends, meaning exactly what it said; but it seems to have been nothing more than one of Poor Richard's jokes, as is shown by the continued friendly relations of the two men and their uninterrupted correspondence, which lasted until death of Strahan, July 9, 1785.

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DEAR STRAHAN

Your friend is this moment arrived at the land of matrimony and, (to continue the seamans phraze) hopes to get safe into harbor this night. I know you and good Mrs. Strahan will sympathize with Mrs Franklin, (for so I am now so happy as to call her) and me in the unbounded joy this long wished for event occasions. If you mention it in this evening's Chronicle don't stile me Excellency, as I think it not quite so proper as I have not yet kissed hands, being prevented yesterday by the Cambridge address. I am to do it for certain on Wednesday. Suppose it was mentioned something in the following manner. "This morning was married at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, William Franklin Esq., the new appointed Governor of New Jersey, to Miss Elz<sup>th</sup> Downes<sup>13</sup> of St James Street."

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<sup>12</sup> *Vide* Letters from William Strahan to David Hall in Boogher's Repository, Vol. 1, p. 117, and PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Vols. x, xi, xii, xiii.

<sup>13</sup> The wife of Governor Franklin died in New York on July 28, 1778, in her forty-ninth year, and was buried in the chancel of St. Paul's Church, where a decade later her husband placed a tablet to her memory with a laudatory inscription beneath the Franklin arms. At the time of her demise he was a prisoner under guard in Connecticut, and the Congress refused him permission to go to New York to see her.

I can only add our compliments to you all and our hopes that we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. S. in St James Street.

I am

Yours affectionately

Saturday

W. FRANKLIN

Sept. 4. 1762.

PLYMOUTH Dec<sup>r</sup> 14, 1762

DEAR SIR

By some mistake or other, either in my Servant or the Keeper of the Post Office, your Letter was here several Days before I had the Pleasure of receiving it.— M<sup>rs</sup> Franklin & myself return you our warmest Thanks & good Wishes for the kind Part you take in our Welfare. She is, thank God, perfectly recover'd from her Fright & Fatigue & her Sea Sickness has I believe been of considerable Service to her, as I never saw her look so hearty & well before. Tho' our late disagreeable Cruise, as I may call it, has made a stormy Impression on her mind, yet it has not so dishearten'd her but that she is willing to make another Attempt. If this seems more successful 'tis not at all improbable but that I may one time or another be able to persuade her to pay you a Visit some fine Evening, to take Revenge for the last Drubbing you & M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes gave us at Cribbage.

I am oblig'd to you for delivering my Letter to Winter-bottom, & hope it won't be long before he recovers the Money.—When you obtain the King's Picture, M<sup>rs</sup> F. desires you will be so good as to call on M<sup>r</sup> Wilson in Queen Street for a Picture he drew of me and presented to her, & have it pack'd up in the same Case in order to be shipp'd to America.—

It affords me great Pleasure to find that the present Ministry are like to stand their ground, notwithstanding all the unreasonable Opposition they have encounter'd. The Preliminaries are such as give us a Prospect of a



more lasting Peace than any we have yet experienc'd. What must have prov'd a continual Source of quarrels, the Proximity of the Engl. French, & Spanish Possessions in North America, is now happily remov'd. And if a proper use be made of our Dominion there, more extensive & more permanent Advantages will arise to this Nation, than could ever have ensu'd from the Retention of our other Conquests. These are, indeed, more seemingly brilliant, but are intrinsically of far less Value.

The Damage that was done to our Man of War might have been repair'd in 3 or 4 days, had our Commadore been a Man of more Spirit & Activity. We have lost a deal of fine Weather & favourable Winds. However he appears determin'd to sail To-morrow Morning; so that we are now very busy in sending every Thing on Board. But the Captains of the Merchant Ships seem concern'd about going, for, they say, as it is the latter End of an Easterly Wind, we may reasonably expect in the Change the same boisterous Weather we met with before, & are therefore inclin'd to stay till the Wind should come about & blow some Time Westerly, & then take the first of the next Easterly Wind; otherwise they say we may probably be driven back again. Let it be as it will, we must now take our Chance, which I do with the more Confidence, as I know I am in the way of my duty, & have reason to expect the Prayers of many good Friends whom I leave behind.—

I only wrote you one Letter before I left Portsmouth, as I postpon'd writing another till I should have an Opportunity of making a Will to leave behind me, under your Care. In this I was prevented by one means or another till my Arrival here, when I wrote what I now enclose, which I must beg you to keep seal'd up as it is till you know what is the Fate of my present Voyage. If you hear of my safe Arrival in America, please to send it to me by one of the first Ships to N. York or Philadelphia. But if the reverse should happen, then open it,

& if the Execution of the Part you are therein requested will not be too inconvenient to your Affairs, I dare promise myself that your Endeavours to serve the Remains of your deceased Friend's Family will not be wanting.—

My Wife says, "Now don't forget to remember me affectionately to good M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Strahan, for I love them." She has indeed a real Affection for you both, as well as, Dear Sir

Your most assured Friend  
& humble Servant

WM FRANKLIN

P. S. When you see D<sup>r</sup> Pringle<sup>14</sup> please to give my affect<sup>d</sup> Compliments & acquaint him that I receiv'd his Answer to my Letter, for which I am much oblig'd to him, but as I had nothing material to communicate I thought it not proper to trouble him with a Letter, especially as I have not a Frank.

The Witnesses to the Will are Capt. D. Mitchell, Master of a Ship in the Carolina Trade who expects to return to London next Summer, John Richnell, Inn-Keeper at the Sign of the Prince George Plymouth, and John Prior, my Servant.

BURLINGTON April 25. 1763.

DEAR SIR:—

I now have the pleasure of saluting you from the American shore within a mile of which we arrived the 6th of February & came to anchor, but had the mortification of being prevented from landing by tempestous weather till the twelfth. Our voyage was as disagreeable as can well be imagined & I would not wish the devil, nay Parson S.<sup>15</sup> to experience a winters passage like ours. We had another storm in the Bay of Biscay, when a very

<sup>14</sup> Sir John Pringle (1707–1782) was of high rank in scientific circles and became president of the Royal Society in 1772 and physician to the King two years later. His great work in life was the reform of military medicine and sanitation, his book on the subject being a military classic to this day.

<sup>15</sup> William Smith (1727–1803), Provost of the University of Pennsylvania and an outspoken and vituperative opponent of Doctor Franklin.



great sea broke thro our cabbin windows & did considerable damage to our stores & baggage. The river was so full of ice that we were obliged to land 150 miles from Philadelphia & travel above 100 in an open one-horse-chair, as no other carriage was to be had, the weather extremely severe: We then met with a chariot which had been waiting for us some time, and before we reach'd Philadelphia a considerable number of gentlemen, with my father and sister, came out to meet us and escorte us into the city.

I had much ado to keep up poor Mrs. Franklin's spirits on some trying occasions, but upon the whole she behaved much beyond my expectations, and seems now, as you told her she would, to have quite forgot her fatigue, as a wife, when delivered of a fine girl or boy forgets the pains of labor.

My father gave us an affectionate welcome & accompany'd me to Amboy when I went to take possession of my Government. The reception I met with from Gov. Hardy<sup>16</sup> was extremely genteel, and that from all ranks of people in New Jersey was equal to my most sanguine wishes. I have the prospect of an easy agreeable administration, and reason to expect an increase of the salary at least 500 pounds pr. Annum, which I dare say will afford you, and my other friends in England great pleasure to hear confirmed. The addresses presented to me at the several towns thro' which I pass'd were printed in the Pensylv. Gazette, and have I suppose been sent you by Mr Hall.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Josiah Hardy was a merchant who had no connection with the colony of New Jersey and was wholly unknown there when he was appointed Governor in April, 1761, which office he held until he was succeeded by Governor Franklin, for issuing commissions to Judges during good behavior in violation of his instructions. He was a brother of Sir Charles Hardy who was Governor of New York, 1755 to 1757.

<sup>17</sup> David Hall (1714-1772) was a journeyman printer with Strahan, in London, who sent him over to Doctor Franklin in 1744 and they subsequently entered into partnership. Hall conducted *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, started by Franklin, with much vigor and ability, and in 1766 bought Franklin out and formed the firm of Hall and Sellers.

I did propose residing at Amboy, but I find on many accounts it will be most proper for me to reside here for some time at least. The house building at Amboy for the Governor's residence is not built by the province, but by the Council of Proprietors, and as there is no good understanding between them & a great part of the people I have reason to think that my living in their house will not be a little unpopular, as it is suspected by some to be intended as a means of byassing the Governor to their interest. I have therefore taken a pretty good house in this town, which as it is within 20 miles of Philadelphia makes it the more agreeable.

Both my father and myself found our friends on our return as warm and as numerous as ever, notwithstanding the vile insinuations of a certain parson to the contrary. My mother is so entirely averse to going to sea, that I believe my father will never be induc'd to see England again. He is now building a house to live in himself.

I hope you have rec'd the money from Winterbottom, and if you have receiv'd the Pictures, Chapel Plate &c from the Jewel office, I should be glad to have them all carefully pack'd up and sent over as I shall find uses for them here. I am told I should have Folio Common Prayer books for all the Council, who are 12 in number, besides some for my own family. You won't forget to pack up my picture at Wilson's in the same box with the King's and if the miniatures are done please to send them by the first opportunity to Philada. to which place I would have everything for me sent, as being nearer than New York. I have remitted Messrs Sargent & Co 500 pounds which, with my return of premium will make a balance due to me, & I have directed it to be paid into your hands. Mrs. Franklin has wrote to Mrs. Hughes for some trifles and desired her to call upon you for the amount, which please to pay, and likewise Mr Becket his account against me for books, and desire him to send me out Ruffhead's Statutes at large. I should also be much obliged to you if you would send me one of the best

Cheshire cheeses you can purchase After you have paid the above mentioned sums for me, please to let me know how my acc. stands.

I grew fat on the voyage, and have continued doing so ever since, but Betsey is much as she was, tho in good health. She bids me tell you she shall strictly observe, on her part the advice you were so kind as to give us both with regard to our conduct to each other, and likewise as to looking upon England as our home. We have often wished that we could put Great Britain under sail, bring it over to this country and anchor it near us, we could then enjoy the pleasure which that delightful spot affords, as well as you whose happy destiny it was . . . been born there.

It gives me great pleasure to hear the Definitive Treaty is signed, hope it will put a stop to the very unjustifiable opposition which has been giv . . . Ministry—Pray let me have a dish of politics in every course, for I assur . . . we in America have as strong an appetite for that kind of food as our bre . . . in England can possibly have. This country at present affords lit . . . no returns in that way, but when any thing occurs that I think will be acceptable I shall not fail communicating it by the first opportunity.

Mrs. Franklin desires her affectionate regards to Mrs. Strahan, yourself, & family, may be tendered with those of Dear Sir, Your Assured Friend

and humble Servant

WM. FRANKLIN.

NEW YORK June 27th, 1763

DEAR SIR.

Happening to arrive at this place a few hours ago, & finding a vessel just on the point of departure for London I take the opportunity of acquainting you with what I dare say will afford you pleasure,—the Welfare of Mrs Franklin & myself. It would have given us particular

satisfaction to have heard the same of you & Mrs Strahan, but I know not how it has happened that so many vessels should arrive from England without my having so much as a single line from you. I know you have a deal of business on your hands, but then I know you at the same time seldom omit an opportunity of making your friends happy, & therefore I cannot account for your omission.

I wrote you a long letter in April last since which I have met the Assembly as you will see by the enclosed paper containing my speech with their address. We had a very amicable session & they increased my salary 200 pds. pr. An. which is a point no Governor could ever obtain from them before. This addition its true is but small. but I have good reason to believe that next year they will add £300 more. The salary is now £1200 & the Fees about £400 Currency.—If you think it not improper I should have no objection to your inserting the speech &c in the Chronicle.

Mrs Franklin is now pretty well reconciled to America & has her health I think better than when in England. I left her at Amboy, but she desired me if I wrote to remember her affectionately to you & Mrs Strahan. I intend to bring her to this city in a day or two, that she may see a lady with whom she was intimately acquainted in London.

Enclosed is an order for £25 Sterlg. on Henton Brown & Sons: For £10 of which I have drawn an order on you in favor of a person to whom I have wrote for some tea &c. & I have directed her to send you the tea to be forwarded to me under the care of Mr Hall, as I suppose you will have some other things to send him.—I must likewise beg you would present my best compliments to Mr Small and pay him 2 : 5 : 0 which he paid for me to Mr Oswald and acquaint him that I shall do myself the pleasure of writing to him as soon as I can get settled, which I now hope will be in a little time as a house is repairing for me at Burlington.



You will see by the publick Papers that a fresh Indian War has broke out. We are at a loss to know what to attribute it to as the Indians have made no complaints of late. From the best information I can procure it is owing to a Belt sent them by the French Commanding officer in the Illinois Country, before he heard of the Peace, promising them if they would rise and cut off the English on the Ohio near the lakes that they should receive support and assistance from the French in Louisiana. They have killed among others Sr Robert Davers, who came over from England to make a Tour of the lakes out of Curiosity, as he was assisting an officer in sounding for a passage in lake Huron. It gives me great concern to hear of the dissension among you great men & of Lord Bute's Resignation, but I trust he still retains his power tho not his office. I can't think what the Devil the people of England would be at. If one may form a judgment of them from the Publick prints they are certainly out of their senses—But I have no leisure for Politicks at present, having only time to add that I am with my best regards to Mrs Strahan

your affectionate humble servant

WM. FRANKLIN

Genl. Monckton<sup>18</sup> goes by this vessel to England The enclosed letter to be sent to Duke street by the Penny post I desire you would charge me with the postage of this Pacquet

BURLINGTON, Oct. 14, 1763.

DEAR STRAHAN;—

In the name of God what have I said or done to you, that so many months should elapse and so many vessels arrive without my having the pleasure of a single line

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<sup>18</sup> Robert Monckton (1726–1782) led a battalion of Royal Americans at the siege of Louisburg in 1758 and was second in command at the capture of Quebec. He was made Governor of New York in 1761 and was offered a command in the Revolutionary War but refused to fight against the colonists.

from you since my arrival in America. I can't help imagining that you might have wrote and the letter miscarried. Mrs. F. says she thinks you have quite forgot us since we left England, and that you will not trouble yourself about us any more. I hope she is mistaken and that you will allow me to prove her so. I know you have a deal of business on your hands and perhaps have not had time to attend to the little affairs wh. you were so kind as to undertake to transact for me. If this is the case I beg you would not put yourself to any inconvenience on my account, but acquaint me with it as soon as you can conveniently that I may employ some other friend who has more leisure.

I wrote to you on the 25 of April and on the 27 of June. In the last I sent you an order on H. Brown & Sons for £25 on my account. I find by a letter from Mess. Sargent & Aufrere that they have paid you a balance due me of £6;4;1. They have since received the return for my insurance amounting to £51 which I have wrote to them by this vessel to pay to you or your order. I hope you have long before this received the £50 due me from Goble. Mrs. F. has wrote to Miss Clarke to purchase some shoes &c. for her and to draw on you for the money, which please to pay and charge to my account. I should be glad if you would send me a state of my account with you as soon as is convenient.

*QUERIES.* Pray have you received the King's picture &c. from the Jewel office? Have you got my picture from Wilson<sup>10</sup> and the miniatures from Myers or Jefferies? Has Chamberlyne got the prints done? Have you sent me the letter containing the will, which I desired you to do from Plymouth?

As I hear *my good friend* Parson Smith has taken the liberty (even before he could hear of my arrival here) to propagate a report that my appointment to this govern-

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<sup>10</sup> Benjamin Wilson (1731-1788) was the artist who painted the portrait of Doctor Franklin that Earl Grey restored to this Nation. *Vide* PENNA. MAG. OF HIST. AND BIOG., vol. xxx, p. 409.



ment was disagreeable to the people, I could have wished that you had published some of the addresses to me, and my speech &c. which were sent over to you. I believe no governor was ever more affectionately received by all ranks of people. Even with those from whom I might have expected opposition I am on very good terms. And as a convincing proof of my influence I have carried two points which the crown has long had at heart, and which former Governors have often unsuccessfully attempted. In short there is no more foundation for Smith's report than there is for believing him an honest man.

I am obliged to write this in a great hurry lest I might miss the opportunity, which prevents my adding anything of News or other affairs. I must therefore refer you to Mr. Hall's papers and to the bearer, Mr. Reed,<sup>20</sup> a young gentleman of this province who goes over for his improvement in the law, and whom I take the liberty of recommending to your notice as a friend of mine and a person of merit.

Mrs. F. says she cannot help loving you for all and joins in good wishes for yourself and Mrs. Strahan, with

Dear Sir,—

Your most humble servant,

WM. FRANKLIN.

Please insert the address of the Trustees of the college which you will see in one of the last papers. I suppose you have already inserted the speech.

TO MR WILLIAM STRAHAN.

BURLINGTON Nov 15. 1763.

*Sir*

The Assembly of this province have just met upon my summons, in order to raise some men to go against the

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<sup>20</sup> Joseph Reed (1741–1785) was born in Trenton, N. J., graduated at Princeton and admitted to the bar in 1763, when he went to London and spent two years as student in the Middle Temple. His career during the Revolution is well known, and his reputation seems to have emerged from the cloud that for so long hung over the question of his patriotism.

Indians & I am at this moment to make my speech to them, so that this can little more than serve to acknowledge the receipt of your letter by Fillet, & to desire your care of the enclosed, the postage of which you must charge to me. The reason of my giving you this trouble is because I have heard that some of my letters to the publick offices have some how or other miscarried. Lord Egremont I hear is dead, but the letter should notwithstanding be left at Whitehall, & I should be obligd. to you to give the letter for the Board of Trade to Mr Pownall<sup>21</sup> & to have Lord Shelburnes Letter left at his house.

If the several things which you mention to be of Crimson Damask are not made up before this comes to hand, I should be glad you would prevent it, & let the whole quantity of Crimson Silk Damask to be given me be changed for as much Yellow Silk & Worsted Damask as comes to the same value, as the latter is cheaper than the other I may probably get by the exchange sufficient for three Window Curtains, to suit some Yellow Damask Chairs & Furniture I have in my Dining Room The Fringe may likewise be changed for Yellow Fringe or Binding a, may be judged most proper for the Curtains by the upholsterer.—Mrs F. desires you will employ Mr Timothy Golding, upholsterer, in Brewer street near Golden Square, as she is acquainted with him, & thinks he will do it in the best & most reasonable manner when he knows it is for her.—The Curtains are to be 3 yards &  $\frac{1}{4}$  long, & 4 breadths in each curtain to be hung festoon fashion. He will probably take the trouble of getting the Damask chang'd.—If the things, however should be made ups the office will I believe allow you for the value of them

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<sup>21</sup> Thomas Pownall (1722–1805) came to America in 1753 and in succession was made Lieut.-Governor of New Jersey, Governor of Massachusetts, and Governor of South Carolina, but the last post he never filled. He was the first Englishman of education and influence to devote his entire life to the amelioration of American political conditions, and he was also the first to introduce into parliament a bill for peace with the revolted colonies.

in money as they will do for other Governors. If they should not produce sufficient for the Curtains, let the remainder be purchased & charged to my account, & when I know the amount of Golding's bill I will remit the money.—The pictures &c may be sent as soon as convenient.

My Father desires Mr Chamberlyn<sup>22</sup> would make a good copy of his picture which was done for Col Ludwell. Let it be put in a handsome gilt frame, & sent over, as soon as it can be well done, to him.—We are all well, & join in love to you & Mrs Strahan—I am Dear sir yours &c.

WM. FRANKLIN.

BURLINGTON, Dec. 18, 1763.

DEAR SIR;—

I have by Capt. Friend acknowledged the receipt of yours by Fillet, together with the Tea and Cheese, since which I have received yours of Oct. 8, by Hardie but the two boxes from Mrs. Hughes and the one containing the Metzotintos are not yet got to hand, owing to the ice which has rendered the river impassable for the stage boats. This same ice has I hear frightened Budden so that he intends to put off immediately lest he should be shut up for the winter. As we are not likely to have another vessel from hence till the Spring I intended to have wrote you a long letter, but it is now out of my power and I question if even these few lines will be in time for Budden.

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<sup>22</sup>Mason Chamberlin was a portrait painter and one of the original members of the Royal Academy, London. He painted a portrait of Doctor Franklin for Colonel Philip Ludwell of Virginia, *circa* 1760, and it was from this portrait that Franklin ordered a replica. In 1897 it belonged to Mr. Victor Van der Weyer, of London, who inherited it from his grandfather, Joshua Bates of Boston, and a copy of it by George D. Leslie is at Harvard University. The "prints" and "Mezzotintos" mentioned doubtless refer to a fine plate of the portrait that was scraped by Edward Fisher in 1763.

I am much obliged to you for inserting my first speech &c. and I now desire you will insert my second, together with the Assembly's address in answer. They will give you an idea of our situation with regards to the Indians. You will find them both in Mr. Hall's papers sent by this opportunity. The title of the Governor, if put at length to the speech, should be the same as that to the address, the first being wrong printed. And in the last part of the paragraph, relative to the Militia law, instead of the words (to you as absolutely necessary) insert (to your consideration). I have still a perfect harmony with everybody in the province and shall not fail to follow the good advice you give me for that purpose. My hearty thanks are due to you on that as well as on many other occasions.

I wish the King and Queen's pictures<sup>23</sup> were finished as there is no picture of either of them (except the prints) yet sent to N. America. Please to tell Mr. Myers<sup>24</sup> (if it is possible that he has not yet finished the Miniatures) that Mrs. Franklin would be glad to have them made a little fatter, as I have increased considerably in flesh since I left London. But care must be taken not to alter the

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<sup>23</sup> The portrait of the King, by Alexander Ramsay, that Franklin mentions several times in these letters as being desirous should come over, is doubtless the identical whole-length portrait of George III now hanging in the Old State-House, or Independence Hall, Philadelphia. This picture was purchased in London by Joseph Harrison, Jr., about the middle of the last century, upon learning that it had been painted by the King's orders for the State House, in Philadelphia, but not sent over on account of the troubles that were brewing between the colonies and the mother country, and placed by him where it was intended originally it should hang.

<sup>24</sup> Jeremiah Meyer (1735-1789) was a distinguished miniature painter and enameller who apparently failed to execute his commissions for the Franklins, as in the *PENNA. MAG. OF HIST. AND BIOG.* for January, 1906, p. 107, is a caustic letter from Doctor Franklin to the painter, demanding the return of a picture from which he was to make a miniature, and April 20, 1771, the Doctor writes to his son: "By this ship I send you the Picture that you left with Meyer. He has never finished the Miniatures." (Smyth's Franklin, vol. v, p. 313.)



likeness. She would likewise be glad to have my father's picture from Mr. Chamberlyne's (which I wrote for in my last) and mine from Mr. Wilson's as our dining room remains unfurnished for want of them. Please to ask Mr. Wilson if he received a letter I wrote him soon after my arrival here. I refer you to my letter per Friend in regard to what I would have done with the Crimson Damask &c. which you were to receive for me.

I hope you have received the £51 from Mess. S. & Aufrere. I don't believe I shall have money enough in your hands to answer all the demands that will be made on you for sundry things I have ordered from England but I will soon remit you a bill. Miss Clark will have I believe upwards of £30 to receive. Miss Smith £5 besides what I wrote to you to pay Mr. Small &c. I should be glad Becket would send me all the volumes of Rusthead's statutes now published, and the other volumes as they come out. Also the numbers printed of Mill's Husbandry, and those monthly pieces of some gentlemen of the society of Arts. These may be directed to me to the care of Mr. Hall as I would have everything you send for me.

We are greatly rejoiced to hear Mrs. Strahan is so well recovered. You have both of you our wishes for a long uninterrupted state of health and happiness.—

I am Dear Sir,

Yours affectionately,

WM. FRANKLIN.

P. S.

Hall has promised to send me the politics of your letter but he has not done it.

The things which Miss Clarke may send please to forward to Mr. Hall, and insure them with his goods. I will settle it with him.

Excuse Haste.

To WM. STRAHAN

BURLINGTON. May 1. 1764.

DEAR SIR.

Yours of the 26th of Decm. with a short postscript of Jan. 30. is come to hand. The above is a copy of the letter I sent per Friend which you mention not to have received. I suppose it is now too late to have the contents comply'd with. Be pleased in that case to tell Mr Golding to make the curtains notwithstanding according to the above directions, & I will remit the money as soon as I know the amount. And if the plate be not sent away before this reaches you, I should be glad to have it commuted for a handsome silver waiter large enough to hold four cups & saucers with the cream pot; a quart tankard with a top to it;—A pint cann; & a half pint cann. The tankard & cans to be quite plain.—Mr Jeffries<sup>25</sup> has done these kind of things for other Governors, & I doubt not will do the same for me. Should there be a ballance coming to him let him charge it to me, as I shall have other dealings with him. The Bible and three of the Prayer books may be sent over & the rest may be disposed of.—I hope you have recd- the 51 pounds from Messrs. S. & Aufrere; if you have not 'twill be paid on your sending for it.—Next week I intend going to Philadelphia when I shall purchase a bill & send you & write you more particularly than I can at present. My reason for not writing you any American politicks was because this Province afforded nothing of any consequence, & I have been so taken up as not to attend to the affairs of others. As to what passes in Pennsylv. I suppose my father & Mr Hall give you full accounts.—Both that Province & Maryland seem to be in a state of Anarchy, & unless the King takes them under his immediate Government (which all but the proprietary officers & dependents are anxious for) the worst of consequences will probably ensue.—I believe (but you best not mention it), that you will see my father in England again shortly, as the inhabitants are

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<sup>25</sup>Thomas Jeffries, Goldsmith and Jeweller to the King.



very desirous he should take another voyage there in order to obtain a change of government. He has published two pamphlets lately, one called a Narrative of the Murder of the Indians at Cone Stagoë, & another Cool Thoughts &c. which are not too large for your Chron. & I believe most of your readers will be glad to see them there., I suppose Mr H. sends them. A period will probably be put to the Indian War this summer. Sr William Johnson<sup>26</sup> has made peace with the Senecas. They deliver up the Indians who first fell upon our frontiers; grant a large tract round Niagara to the King & his heirs with a free transportation over that portage to all his Majesty's subjects, without fee or reward. They have given hostages for the performance of the articles, & have joined the rest of the Confederated nations against our enemies. Sir Wm expects great things from all of them. Near 400 are now out against the enemy Indians. I was much entertained with your letter to my father. It made me imagine myself present at the debates. Mrs F. is uneasy at not receiving a box which Miss Clarke mentions to have been due to you the 8th of Jany. We continue well and happy. Our best wishes attend you & Mrs Strahan.— I am dear sir yours affectionately

WM. FRANKLIN.

Endorsed. June 22: 1764 gave Mr Chamberlin the order

BURLINGTON, June 18, 1764.

DEAR SIR;—

I acknowledge the receipt of yours of Dec. 26th by the King of Prussia, Capt. Robinson, which I hope will have

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<sup>26</sup> William Johnson (1715–1774) was an Irishman who came to this country in 1738 to take charge of the landed estate of his uncle, Admiral Sir Peter Warren, who had married Miss De Lancey of New York. He soon made a deep impression upon the Indians by his honesty and justice and won an influence over them never possessed by any other white man, so that he was appointed "sole superintendent of the Six Nations and their allies" and in 1755 was created a baronet.

better luck than that I sent you by your friend as I have not time at present to send you a copy being just on the point of setting out to Lord Stirling's<sup>27</sup> in East Jersey where we are to spend part of the summer. This likewise prevents my writing many things to you that I intended, but you may depend that I shall shortly send you a long letter to make up for my past deficiencies.

I have this day received yours of the 23rd of March together with the trunk containing the crimson damask &c. and the box from Miss Clarke. For your care therein I am much obliged to you.

Enclosed is a first bill of exchange drawn by my father on Messrs. Smith, Wright & Gray for 30 £ ster'l which I have indorsed to you and desire when received you would place to my account. I have drawn on you for 15 £ payable to Miss Smith and for 4 guineas to Elizabeth Roberts which please to pay on demand. I have likewise sent to Miss Clarke for 4 pairs of shoes for Mrs. F. and to Partridge, a shoemaker in St. James St. for 6 pairs for myself and directed them to call on you for the money and I must desire you would forward them and two canisters of tea from Miss Smith by the first vessel to the care of Mr. Hall. Mrs. Franklin joins in love to you and Mrs. Strahan. with,

Dear sir, your obliged Humble servant

WM. FRANKLIN.

Pray did you pay Mr. Small for me as I desired you in my letter June 27th 1763 and did you ask Mr. Wilson if he received a letter I wrote him soon after my arrival. My father seems to be preparing in earnest for a voyage to England.

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<sup>27</sup> William Alexander (1726-1783), called "Lord Stirling," was born in New York and was an ardent patriot who became a Major-General in the Army of the Revolution. It was Stirling who arrested Governor Franklin in July, 1776. His seat was at Baskinridge.

BURLINGTON Sept. 23. 1764.

DEAR SIR

I wrote you a few lines June 6th & intended to have wrote you a long letter by Bredden, who I had heard was not to sail till the 1st of October, but word is this moment brought me, that he is to sail this afternoon, so that I have now but just time to enclose you a second of the bill I sent you in my last for 30 Pounds Sterling, and to desire you will publish the following in the Chronicle as, An extract of a letter from an officer at Philadelphia.

“This Proprietary Province seems at present to be a perfect contrast to the neighboring Governments under the Crown There, all is peace and tranquility, here, the utmost anarchy and confusion, nor is there any prospect of harmony being restored to this unhappy country unless a change of government should ensue. The Go——r’s refusing to let the Assembly grant an Aid to his Majesty, but on the iniquitous terms of having the best of the Proprietary lands taxed no higher than the worst of the peoples, which the House were obliged to comply with in their last Supply Act, and his having also sided with those who had insulted him and his Government against the very persons who had assisted him in the time of his distress, have occasioned such a hatred against the family as can never be eradicated. If the Crown therefore inclines to have that Province under its immediate Government there never can be a more proper opportunity for the purpose. The Proprietary Party, are exerting themselves to the utmost to carry the next election, thinking if they can but turn out the old members they shall shew that the majority of the people are not for a King’s Government. But notwithstanding they are begging, promising, and bribing all in their power it is thought by those who are best acquainted with these matters that they will not be able to succeed.”

Mrs. F. desires her love to you & Mrs Strahan. Excuse this hasty scrawl & believe me to be very sincerely

Dear Sir

Your Friend & hum. sevt.

WM. F.

To WM. STRAHAN

BURLINGTON Febry. 18th. 1765.

*Dear Sir*

I perceive by the Chronicle that my letter to you of Sept 21. (which enclosed you a second bill for 30 £ Sterling) has got safe to hand, as you have therein published an extract of it, for which I am much obliged to you But whether you received mine of May 1 1764. containing the first bill for 30 £ I have not heard. The last letter I have receivd. from you is dated March 23. 1764. But as I have since receivd some tea & shoes, which you were so good as to forward for me to Mr Hall, I doubt not but you have also wrote, tho' I have not had the pleasure of receiving your letter. I have a great suspicion that some of the Proprietary Politicians in Pennsylvania have been mean enough to intercept many of my letters from England, in hopes of finding something of which they may take advantage; for I have late received several things from different persons in England without any letter accompanying them, For the future be pleased to send your letters to me under cover to Messrs Baynton and Wharton Merchants in Philadelphia.

I have no copy of the letter I sent you in June, but I remember it contains the first bill for 30 £ and an acknowledgement of the receipt of the trunk containing the Common Prayer books, Damask &c In mine of Nov. 15. 1763 I desired you to get the Silk Damask changed for some silk & Worsted Damask & to have it made into curtains for my dining room by Mr Timothy Golding, Upholsterer, in Brewer Street, near Golden Square, who having formerly work'd for Mrs Franklin & her brothers

family would perhaps make them more reasonably than others. But as that letter miscarried. & as I thought the Damask would probably be sent over, I desired you in my letter of May 1. to tell Mr Golding to make the curtains notwithstanding, according to these directions, Viz. "Three curtains of Yellow Silk and Worsted Damask: Each Curtain to be Three yards and a quarter long—to contain four breadths of the Damask—& to be hung festoon fashion." And I likewise desired that if the Chapel Plate was not sent away, that you would have it commuted for a handsome silver waiter (large enough to hold four cups & saucers with the cream pot) A Quart Tankard with a top—A Pint Cann—& a Half Pint Cann. The Tankard & the Canns to be quite plain. If you have not received these letters & already sent the things, I should be glad you would as soon after the receipt of this as you can conveniently. The Canns indeed if not sent may be omitted, as I have been obliged to purchase such here. Mr Jefferies, the King's cutler, has been used to commute things of this kind for other Governors, & will I doubt not readily do the same for me. I should be glad to have your account as soon as suits your convenience. The ballance due to you I desired my father to pay, which he promised.—I have not received the books from Becket which I wrote for, & perhaps he has omitted to send them.

We have not heard anything from my father since he sailed, but I hope he has been safely landed in England at least two months ago. Since he left us Mr Allen,<sup>28</sup> one of the principal Prop'y. Tools in Pennsylvania, has employed that miscreant Parson Smith & two or three other prostitute writers, to asperse his character in which they have been very industrious. However, they have lately

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<sup>28</sup> William Allen (1710–1780) was Chief Justice of Pennsylvania from 1750 to 1774. The latter year he went to England, where he died. He was a pronounced Loyalist.



received a terrible shock from Mr Hughes,<sup>29</sup> one of my Father's friends, who being incensed at their base conduct published an advertisement signed with his name, in which he promised that if Mr Allen or any Gentn. of

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<sup>29</sup> John Hughes was "Chief Distributor of the Stamps" for Pennsylvania and Delaware under commission, secured for him by Doctor Franklin and transmitted to Hughes under cover of a private letter from Franklin of August 9, 1765 (Smyth's Franklin, iv, 392); but he was not allowed by the citizens to serve and was forced to resign. Franklin's exact position in this matter has never been made quite clear and at the time was made much of against him. Hughes had been a member of the Assembly of Pennsylvania for ten years from 1755 and on January 15, 1756, was a Commissioner, with John Mifflin and Evan Morgan, to furnish the troops with provisions, etc.; in July, 1757, was one of the Provincial Commissioners who appeared at the Treaty at Easton with Teedyuscung on behalf of the Indians, and in October, 1757, was one of a commission with Edward Shippen and James Galbraith "to construct a fort and convenient houses at Wiomink for the Indians" (Pa. Arch., iii, 288), but Hughes peremptorily refused to go unless he had sole command of the expedition (Id., 289), which occasioned some rather warm correspondence with Governor Denny. It seems, however, from a letter written by the Governor a month later (Id., p. 316) that the affair had been adjusted without Hughes being given command "Wiomink" was Wyoming. He was commissioned October 20, 1759, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia, but on February 8, 1761, a writ of supersedeas was issued, against him and his five colleagues, forbidding them exercising the powers granted by Governor Denny. His haughty and imperious character made him a difficult subject and, as Galloway wrote to Franklin, "disgusted with his friends and all the world," he retired to his farm, *Walnut Grove*, "Where he wrote letters of advice to the minstry" Governor Franklin tells his father. He sold *Walnut Grove*, where the famous *Meschianza* was held, to Joseph Wharton, and in 1769 removed to Portsmouth, N. H., where he had been appointed Collector of the Customs, an office he found very difficult to exercise, and later held the same post at Charles Town, as *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, for February 20, 1772, states, in announcing his death. He had a brother, Hugh Hughes, who resided in New York and was one of the Sons of Liberty and a Patriot throughout the war. Owing to severe financial disasters Hugh Hughes "supported a numerous family by teaching school," which fact is placed curiously and erroneously to the credit of John Hughes in the generally very accurate Index to the Second Series of the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in indexing the letters written from James Parker to Benjamin Franklin, printed in volume xvi of the *Proceedings*, pp. 202, 204, 208, 211, 217 and 224. John Hughes also had a son named for his uncle Hugh, who resided in New Jersey and whose father wanted Doctor Franklin to have him appointed Stamp Distributor for that colony. For a full account of the Stamp Act and John Hughes see *Hazzard's Register*, vol. ii, pp. 243-250.



character would undertake to justify the charges brought against Mr Franklin he would pay 10 pounds to the hospital for every one they should prove to the satisfaction of impartial Persons provided they would pay 5 pounds for every falsehood he should prove they had alledg'd against Mr Franklin. But this challenge they were afraid to accept, & therefore still kept their names concealed; but as they thought that something must be done they endeavored to turn Mr Hughes' challenge into ridicule & raise the laugh against him by an anonymous answer. He however, published a reply, with his name subscribed, in which he has lash'd them very severely for their baseness. Not being able to answer this they employed one Dove,<sup>30</sup> a fellow who has some talent, for the lowest kind of Scurrility to publish a print with some verses annex'd vilifying my Father & some of the most worthy men of the Province. By way of revenge some writer has attacked them in their own way; 'turn'd Dove's verses against Mr Allen, he being the head of the Prop'y Party. This has enraged him excessively as those verses and the print has cost him upwards of 25 pounds. You will probably have seen before this reaches you, the advertisement, answer & reply, as they were printed in Mr Hall's newspaper, & therefore I send you the enclosed pamphlet, which is likely to put a stop to that kind of writing here for the future, as was the intention of the author.—The malice of the Prop. Party against my Father on account of his wanting to bring about a change of Government is beyond all bounds. They glory in saying and doing things to destroy his character that would make even Devils blush.—If he does not succeed I know not what will become of the Province, as there is such a rooted hatred among a greater Majority of the people against the Prop'n Family. Do let me hear what you think of his undertaking &c &c

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<sup>30</sup> *Vide* A Philadelphia Schoolmaster of the Eighteenth Century. By Joseph Jackson. PENNA. MAG. OF HIST. AND BIOG., vol. xxxv, p. 315.

Pray hasten Mr Ramsay with the King & Queen's picture, & send it over with mine at Mr Wilsons.

Mr Stockton<sup>31</sup> the gentleman who will deliver you this, is a considerable lawyer of this province, & a particular friend of mine, give me leave to recommend him to your acquaintance and to desire that you would treat him with the sight of S. Johnson & a few more of your Authors; for we Americans, when we go to England have as much curiosity to see a live author as Englishman have to see a live ostrich, or Cherokee Sachem

Mrs Franklin joins in love to good Mrs Strahan & yourself with Dear Sir

Your sincere Friend, & obliged hum servnt,

WM FRANKLIN.

P. S. I hope you have paid Mr Small & also Mr Jackson, of the Temple, agreeable to what I wrote to you before. The latter is about 27 Pounds.

TO WM. STRAHAN

BURLINGTON Jany. 29. 1769.

*Dear Sir*

If a due sense of one's fault is any step toward amendment, I may hope that I shall hereafter become a more regular correspondent; for never was man more ashamed of, nor angry with himself, than I have been on account of my having so long neglected acknowledging the receipt of your favor by Mr Alexander.<sup>32</sup> I have nothing to plead

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<sup>31</sup>Richard Stockton (1730-1781), Signer of the Declaration of Independence, made a visit to England in 1765, where he remained fifteen months and was instrumental in securing John Witherspoon for the presidency of the College of New Jersey.

<sup>32</sup>Doubtless Cosmo Alexander, a Scotch painter who came to this country about the time of this letter, painting a number of interesting portraits in the affected perfunctory manner of the period. He was a great-grandson of George Jameson, whom Walpole calls "the Vandyke of Scotland;" but his chief interest for us is that he was the first instructor in art of Gilbert Stuart, America's master painter, whom he took to Scotland in 1773, where Alexander soon after died. It would be interesting to know where are the paintings he did for William Franklin.

in excuse, but that it was constantly in my intention to write, and that tho' I have some how or other, from time to time, omitted doing it, yet it was never owing to an abatement of that regard and friendship which I have ever entertain'd for you, from our first acquaintance. It gives me indeed much concern that there should be such a chasm in our correspondence. But as the business of my office occasions me a great deal of writing, and as my income (my necessary expenses considered) will not allow me to keep even a private secretary or clerk to copy my dispatches, it is not possible that I should keep up so constant & regular a correspondence with my friends as I could wish. I have shown, and shall continue to show, Mr Alex'r. all the civilities & render him all the services in my power, both on his own account and your recommendation. He has been for several weeks together at my house, and I employed him in doing as much painting as came to ninety Guineas, besides getting him business in that way from several of my friends; so that if he don't succeed in recovering his lands (which however, I believe he will) he cannot be any great loser by his voyage. He was last year deprived of the use of his limbs by a fit of sickness but is since recovered & got to work again.

This will be delivered to you by a particular friend of mine, Mr Samuel Wharton<sup>33</sup> Merchant of Philadelphia, who I beg leave to recommend to your civilities. He is a gentleman of character & abilities, and, from what he has heard me say of you, he is very desirous of the pleasure of being of your acquaintance. I dare say you will

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<sup>33</sup>Samuel Wharton (1732-1800), who was a cousin of Thomas Wharton, Jr., first Governor of the State of Pennsylvania under the title of "President of the Supreme Executive Council," was a merchant of high standing and a partner in the house of Baynton, Wharton and Morgan, to whom the Six Nations of Indians made over a tract of land of 200,000 acres, on the upper Ohio River, as indemnity for £40,000 worth of goods destroyed by them. Mr. Wharton went to England to obtain a confirmation of this grant in which he almost succeeded when the Revolution broke out and ended his errand, so that the deed was never approved.

like him, and I am sure he will like you. I long much to have a chat with you on our American affairs, which are really becoming very critical. But I durst not trust my sentiments on that subject to a letter for fear of accidents. Mr Wharton, however, is capable of giving you very exact information of the state of affairs on this side the water. We wait with impatience to hear the result of the session of Parliament with respect to America. Your letters of political intelligence, which Mr Hall generally publishes in his Paper afford us from time to time the best information we receive of what is doing in Parliament, it containing many interesting particulars, & little anecdotes, which we have not thro' any other channel.

Mrs Franklin & I were much concerned at the loss you sustained in the death of your very amiable daughter Johnston We hope her children are well, & afford you and Mrs Strahan a good deal of comfort. Our best wishes attend you both—remember me kindly to your son William and to my young *Mother* who, I suppose, is now grown a woman, and will ere long add to her & your Happiness, by taking unto herself a husband. I heartily wish her a good one, and am with the sincerest regard, Dear Sir your most faithful & obedient servant.

By Mr Wharton.

WM. FRANKLIN

To WM. STRAHAN

BURLINGTON June 18th. 1771

*Dear Sir.*

If I did not know that you were one of the best men in the world, and always disposed to make proper allowances for the faults of your friends, I should be much more uneasy than I am at having been so deficient in my correspondence with you. Your last letter, however of the 3rd of April, is of so kind & friendly a nature that to delay my acknowledgements of it would render me unworthy of your future regard or notice



I was in hopes Lord H.<sup>34</sup> had quite forgot that long letter he put me under the necessity of writing to him, as it was wrote above two years & a half ago & I have received some tolerably complaisant letters from him since. If that letter proved a Phillipic to his Lordship, it was not so from any design in me, but from the nature of the subject. He was treated with great respect throughout the whole, but it was impossible for me to clear myself of the charges he brought against me, otherwise than by showing that they had not any just foundation, and it was impossible to do this, without at the same time, showing (by implication at least) that the man who could invent such charges was—no better than he should be. He had at the very time he found fault with my conduct documents in his possession that proved the direct contrary of what he asserted. Knowing this I was not a little alarmed. I could not imagine that he would venture to act such a part without he was determined to remove me from my office, as soon as he could contrive a plausible excuse for it. I therefore determined to shew him that there was not even a shadow of pretence for the censure he had passed on my conduct in hopes that when he found that to be the case he would desist from or at least postpone any further attempts against me. At the same time I knew that if he was of a revengeful ungenerous Temper there was danger in showing that he was wrong, of irritating him still more against me—The answer he returned was pretty similar to what he mention'd to you. But if the King really did say to him "My Lord I wonder at your patience," I think he would not have fail'd upon such a hint to remove, unless indeed, he was afraid that by a Publication of my letters I should

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<sup>34</sup> Wills Hills (1718–1793), second Earl of Hillsborough, was Joint-Postmaster-General, 1766–1768, and Secretary of State for the colonies, 1768–1772. He was a tyrannical enemy of the colonies and pursued a harsh policy toward America, for which he was severely attacked by Sir Philip Francis in the *Letters of Junius*.



give the world a fresh proof of his injustice. At the time he was so much blam'd for his treatment of General Amherst.<sup>85</sup> As to his Lordship's saying that my letters never came to him through the ordinary channel, &c. it is *inter nos*, a downright falsehood. I am well convinced that he never receiv'd above one in ten in any other way. It is true that when I have had occasion to write anything to him which particularly respected myself, and had not time to copy the letter, I have sometimes enclosed it to my father, that he might be acquainted with the matter, & thereby be enabled to pursue such measures as the necessity of the case might require; which cannot be deem'd very improper, when it is considered that, besides being my father he is an agent appointed by the Governor as well as by the Assembly, and that it may be necessary for him at times to appear in behalf of one as well as the other. However, this I mention in confidence. The truth of the matter is Lord H has really no cause of quarrel with me, but having been disappointed in his late attempts to injure my father he is now endeavoring to hurt him through me. For which purpose he catches at every the minuteest trifle, and even blames me for things that he ought to approve, he has no reason (other than the natural connexion between us) to imagine that I entertain the same political opinion with my father with regard to the disputes between Britain & America. My sentiments are really in many respects different from those which have yet been published on either side of the question; but as I could not expect the voice of an individual be attended to in the temper both parties were in, I for the most part kept my sentiments to myself, & only endeavored to steer my little bark quietly through all the storms of political contest with which I was every-

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<sup>85</sup> Jeffrey Amherst (1717-1797) came to America in 1758, captured Louisburg, became Commander-in-Chief, took Fort Du Quesne, Ticonderoga and Crown Point from the French, but was unsuccessful against the wily Pontiac, and returned to England in 1763.

where surrounded. I have however, on no occasion given up a single point of the Crown's Prerogatives, nor have I ever attempted the least infringement of the People's Privileges. An almost uninterrupted harmony has prevailed between me & the other branches of the Legislature of this Province, we having had no difference of any importance until the session in April last, when they foolishly refused to grant any money for the supply of the King's troops after all the other colonies had given up the point, and notwithstanding they had more money in the Treasury struck expressly for the use of the Crown, than was necessary for the purpose. My messages to them on this head are a sufficient refutation of any suspicions Lord H. may entertain of my having any undue or improper Bias to American Politics, and perhaps may have a tendency to induce him to drop his designs against me.

I have for some time past settled my mind with regard to the affair of the Ohio settlement, and have almost given up all expectation of its taking place while Lord H presides at the board of trade. If it should, however succeed it will give me great pleasure, tho' not so much on any hopes I have of its being eventually advantageous to me, as that it is the only probable means which now seems to offer, by which my friends Baynton, Wharton, & Morgan<sup>36</sup> (on whose account I was principally induced to engage in the undertaking) may extricate themselves from their embarrisments. I have not any doubt of Mr Wharton's activity, sagacity or perseverance in this business. He is very capable and has certainly every inducement to exert all his abilities in carrying it through. It is indeed high time that a Government was established in that country for the people are migrating there every day, and settling themselves on the lands without any title. They are there exempt from all law and order, the

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<sup>36</sup> This firm, one of the most important in the colonies, was composed of John Baynton, Samuel Wharton, and George Morgan.

ill consequences of which, when they come to be somewhat more numerous, as they soon will be, are too obvious to need mentioning. I requested one Mr Hooper,<sup>37</sup> a Gent'n. of character who lately went to the Ohio to survey a large tract of land for Col Croghan,<sup>38</sup> to send me an acct. of the nature of the land, the number of the inhabitants &c. and yesterday I received a letter from him from which, as I imagine it will be agreeable to you, I send the following extract for your information.

"FORT PITT<sup>39</sup> May 22d 1771.

SIR,

"In eight days after I left Philadelphia I arrived here & found Col. Croghan very well. I have been engaged in running the line of the Colonels lower Tract on the South West Side of the Mononghela extending down the Ohio about 27 miles below Fort Pitt, which tract is in general very good and I believe will readily sell to settlers at Ten Pounds Sterling pr hundred acres, subject only to the quit rent that shall become due to the Crown in the new Government. These are the terms proposed by the Colonel, and I believe as soon as the confirmation is known he will sell a considerable quantity of land at that price. Three Germans that came up with me from Northampton County, in Penneslvania, to seek a settle-

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<sup>37</sup> This was Robert Lettis Hooper, Junior, the third if not the fourth of his name, which makes it very difficult to identify his early career, a puzzle the writer is now endeavoring to solve. He lived respectively in Trenton and in Burlington county, New Jersey, and in Philadelphia and in Easton, Pennsylvania. He is commonly called "Colonel Hooper" and was Deputy Quartermaster-General in the Continental army; Deputy Commissary of Transportation, and one of the Superintendents of Magazines "to be laid up for the army," his department covering Northampton, Bucks, Berks, and Philadelphia counties in Penna. and Sussex county in New Jersey. He was Vice-President of New Jersey and died at Trenton, July 30, 1797, in his sixty-seventh year, leaving no descendants.

<sup>38</sup> George Croghan was an Indian trader and agent who in 1766 made a settlement four miles from Fort Pitt and rendered valuable service in pacifying and conciliating the Indians.

<sup>39</sup> After the capture of Fort Du Quesne from the French, this post was called Fort Pitt, now Pittsburgh, Penna.

ment for themselves and about thirty families, after viewing this tract of the Colonels with me, agreed to give £17/10 Currency pr hundred for about 20,000 acres & to make a German settlement on the Ohio. After consulting with their friends they are to give the Col. their answer in July next, & I expect a number of families will enter on the land this fall. There is already near sixty families settled on this tract, the whole of which is, I think within the bounds of the new Government.—This part of the country is hilly, but the soil is of an excellent quality & free from stone. It is generally wooded with black oak intermixed with walnut & locust trees which are never found but in a rich good soil. It has been said that this country was not well stored with springs and creeks, sufficient for mills, the contrary of which I am well convinced of for 30 miles round this place. I cannot with any certainty inform your excell'n. what number of families are settled on the west side of the Allegheny mountains, but I have reason to conclude from information that I have had, there must be at least three thousand, therefore considering the great number of people that yearly remove from the Eastern Colonies, into this new country, I think the settlement of the new colony will be more rapid than any other of the colonies has been in America."

I was much obliged to you for a copy of the queries you put to my father and his answers, which I had not seen before. Mr Gale the gent'n. who delivered them to me with a letter of recommendation from you, is now gone to the Ohio, to assist Mr Hooper in surveying for Col. Croghan; those Gent'n. having, at my request, agreed to find him employ there for this summer at least. It is the first business he has obtained since his coming to America, & I am in hopes will be introductory to something of more consequence.—Mr Lyle whom you likewise recommended to me, is settled at present on a farm of mine within 5 miles of this town, which I let him have for a twelve month on



his own terms, that he might have an opportunity of trying whether he could make anything by farming in America, of which he seemed to have a great doubt. However he has found it excee'd his expectations, & has some thoughts of taking a farm near mine, & fixing there altogether. He appears to understand farming very well, but does not like to work much himself, as all our farmers are obliged to do, labour being extremely dear here to what it is in the old Counteries. The other gent'n. Mr Brett who brought me a recommendatory letter from you, was several times at my house & I took him to see some farms in this neighborhood, which were at that time to be sold, but none of them suited him. He afterwards agreed to purchase 1500 acres in N. York Government (belonging to a man who had empowered me to sell it) & requested me to have the deeds drawn, but before they were completed he desired to be off, because his Grey Mare it seems did not approve of the purchase, since which I have heard nothing of him.

It gave me particular pleasure to hear that you were gratified in your wishes of being King's Printer, But don't flatter yourself that you are arrived at the "ne plus ultra" of your desires. There is no such thing in this life. I entirely agree with you, however in thinking a life of industry the most eligible.

The account you gave me in one of your letters of the state of your family was extremely agreeable to Mrs Franklin & myself as everything must be which informs us of your comfort & happiness. Our best wishes ever attend you & Mrs Strahan. Do let our mother know that we send our duty & present our compls, to your sons William<sup>40</sup> & George.<sup>41</sup> I should be happy to see the latter

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<sup>40</sup> William Strahan, Jr., who died in his father's lifetime, was a suitor for the hand of Governor Franklin's sister Sarah. Sparks prints a letter from his father to her mother, on the subject.

<sup>41</sup> George Strahan (1744-1824) was second son of William Strahan. He was graduated at Oxford and took orders. He was a great favorite with Doctor Samuel Johnson and administered to him on his death-bed.



Bishop of America. I am with great truth Dear sir,  
your ever faithful & affect, servant

WM. FRANKLIN

To MR. STRAHAN.

BURLINGTON, June 21, 1771.

DEAR FRIEND,

I am obliged to you for yours of June 17, & for the care you took in sending my Letter from my Father. It is dated April 24. It mentions the Ohio Affair being in a prosperous way, but directs me not to say anything about it, as many things happen *between the Cup and Lip*. If the present administn stand their ground, we may expect, I think, to hear of something decisive on that Head soon. The Boat is just going——

Yours affecty

W. FRANKLIN.

PERTH AMBOY, May 7th, 1775.

DEAR SIR;—

I sent the enclosed packet to New York to day in order to go by Capt. Lawrence but it was returned to me by my friend there with an account of Capt. Lawrence having sailed yesterday, but as Capt. Coupar is to sail from thence to London on Tuesday my friend advises me to put my packet under cover to some private person in London in whom I can confide and send it by him. I have therefore taken the liberty to enclose it to you as otherwise there would be danger of its being opened by some of the Sons of Liberty, at New York, if seen in Capt. Coupar's bag, or perhaps by some of his passengers This too will excuse me for not directing you as member of Parliament or king's Printer.

Your favor of the fifth of February by Falconer came to hand last week and shall be answered fully as soon as I have any leisure. At prezent I have scarcely time to subscribe myself,

Your affectionate friend

and most obedient servant,

WILLIAM FRANKLIN

WM. STRAHAN, ESQR.

I have this moment heard that my father arrived at Philadelphia on Friday evening last, which is quite unexpected news to me.

TO WM. STRAHAN

NEW YORK Oct 9th. 1779.

DEAR SIR.

I was made happy by the receipt of your favor of the 26th of June, which gave me so pleasing an account of the health and situation of yourself and family, in whose welfare I shall always feel myself interested.

You have greatly obliged me by the readiness with which you executed my business at the Treasury. I am very glad to have so good an agent & banker, & have drawn on you for the balance you mention (£609:7:6) in favor of Mr Frederick Wm. Geyer at ten days sight, you will please to continue to receive my quarterly allowance as it becomes due. This letter is chiefly to advise you of the above draft, for as to politics, I must defer writing on the subject till a more safe opportunity which will probably soon offer by the fleet. However I cannot resist sending you an extract from a Rebel News-Paper now before me, by which you may form a pretty tolerable idea of our management here. I know not the writer, and tis well for him, perhaps, that he is not known here, otherwise he might find to his sorrow, that truth is not to be spoken at all times. As it has found its way for once into a Rebel Paper, perhaps it may do some good, if it could likewise appear in some of your English Papers.

I am, with my best regards to Mrs Strahan & the rest of your worthy family, Dear sir, your faithful & affec't hum. servt.

WM. FRANKLIN

WM STRAHAN ESQ.

*From the New Jersey Journal (a Rebel Paper)*  
*dated Sept, 21. 1779.*

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT Sept. 8

Extract of a letter from a person in New York to a person in Savanna in Georgia, dated Aug 19, taken on board a prize brought in to New London.

—"I have the pleasure of yours by Col.—your observations respecting the operations to the Southward will not apply here.—Here with a body of 12000 men, we do—nothing: The Rebels are the only active people here; they lately, by a well concerted, well conducted plan, surprised Stony-point-Fort, up the North River, a regular constructed fort, with about 600 men in it, and commanded by Col. Johnston<sup>42</sup> of the 17th Regiment, about 40 were killed, the rest were taken; they took off or destroyed everything, and, on the approach of General Clinton's Army, abandoned it. Last night they surprised Pawles Hook carried off about 158 men. Such are the blessed effects of the three years campaigns under the Howes, who have been excellent drill sergeants to them,—yet we do nothing, though the troops themselves are encouraging. We have changed our chief, it is true, but I cannot say for the better. Our present chief, tis said, never continues in one mind from Breakfast till dinner, or from dinner till bed-time, and he is as much above advice as his predecessor. He could have destroyed stores, intercepted convoys surprised parties or cantonments &c. but the court stile on all occasions is, these are not the objects, and what are his objects none can tell perhaps it may be doubted if he himself knows. We are fortifying this town and island, and showing every sign

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<sup>42</sup>Henry Johnson (1748–1835), colonel of the 17th regiment of foot, commanded at Stony Point when he was surprised by Anthony Wayne and he and his whole force made prisoners. His orderly book, that fell into the hands of Wayne, is in the Hist. Soc. of Penna. He married Rebecca Franks of Philadelphia in 1782 and was created a baronet in 1818.

of fear of invasion. This may be prudent but can we do nothing besides? General Tryon<sup>43</sup> was recalled and rebuked for burning Fairfield and Norwalk. Nothing has been attempted since.—We have always here doubted both the capacity and integrity of your active commander, and therefore are pleased he is to return to his Regiment; he has feathered his nest well by all accounts.”

NEW YORK May 19th, 1780

DEAR SIR,

My last to you was dated the 30th of November. This is just to advise you that I have this Day drawn on you, in two Sets of Exchange, for Two hundred and forty-three Pounds Fifteen Shillings Sterling, payable to Mr. Frederic Wm. Geyer, or order, Ten Days after Sight. One Set for £100 and the other for £143.15. 0. This is for half a year's Allowance, after the Deduction of Sixpence in the Pound. There was a Year's Allowance due on the 5th, of last Month, the whole of which, I suppose, you have received Quarterly as it became due.

We have no News of any Consequence but what you will see in the public Papers. If what is contained in that published this Day (as brought from the West Indies) prove true it might be attended with the greatest Advantages to the British Interest.

In haste, but ever

Yours affectionately

WM. FRANKLIN.

WM. STRAHAN, ESQR.

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<sup>43</sup> William Tryon (1725–1788), Lieut.-Governor of North Carolina, 1764 to 1771, when he was appointed Governor of New York, which he held until 1778, when he returned to England. He was detested by the colonists for his rigorous administration and the inhumanity he exhibited on several occasions, especially during his Connecticut depredations, which he conducted in person.

NEW YORK, May 11th. 1781.

DEAR SIR

I have not had the pleasure of a line from you since the 26th of June 1779. The last letter I wrote to you was dated the 12th of November 1780, in which I informed you of my having drawn on you for 200 pounds sterling, in favor of Mr Geyer, and enclosed copies of sundry intercepted letters &c. Pray did you receive them?

In Jan. last I likewise drew on you for 300 pounds sterling in favor of Mr Geyer, which is the last bill I have drawn and will probably be the last that I shall draw on you for some time as I cannot draw at less than 10 per cent less, exclusive of the six pence in the pound deducted in England, which I can by no means afford. I have therefore sold off some effects that I could best spare in hopes of being able to support myself by that means until bills may rise to a price nearer their value. In the meantime it will be of some advantage to me if you will be so good as to place in my name part of the money you may receive on my account from time to time in the Public Fund, where it may be producing interest: Which of the stocks to prefer I know not, but some of my friends think Bank Stock the most advantageous, as the interest, they say is paid quarterly and may be immediately applied to the increase of the principal. Others prefer Navy Bills. However, that is a matter I leave entirely to your judgment, not doubting you will do the best you can for me. By my account there was due to me after paying all my drafts on the 5th of April last. 231 : 5: and on the 5th of July I shall have £.121 : 17 : 6 more due, so that you may lay out for me about 350 pounds in the purchase of stock, and receive the interest as it may become due.

I must likewise beg leave to trouble you on another matter of some importance to me. A Mr Baldwin Wake<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>A son or grandson of William Wake, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1716 until his death, in 1737, and brother of the wife of William Tryon, Governor of New York.



(brother of Sir William Wake, Member of Parliament) rented a farm of me and not having paid the rent for several years there was due to me on a settlement £268 :19 sterling, for which, just before his departure for England he gave me his bond dated Aug 14th 1779, on interest at 7 per cent (the legal interest here) payable in Twelve months. I could have prevented his leaving this country unless he either paid me or gave security for the debt, but in consideration of his character and family connexions, I consented to take his bond, and promised that in case he paid you the principal within a year I would forgive him the interest, which he gave me expectations of doing, but as you have not mentioned the subject so me, I conclude he has not paid it. I should be glad therefore you would, as my attorney, demand payment of the bond and endeavor to recover the money for me as soon as possible. Your receipt will be a sufficient discharge to him for the sum, and I will deliver up the bond to any person whom he may appoint to receive it. He left bill of exchange drawn in his favor by Thomas Powell of Burlington in New Jersey on Arthur Gould Esq., in Halifax, Nova Scotia for £52 : 16. sterling dated May 1st 1779, which was protested and has never since been paid. If it had I was to have given him credit for so much on the Bond—the enclosed letter to him is to inform him of this circumstance, and to request that he will discharge the bond by paying the amount to you. If it should be necessary to send you over a certified copy of the bond, you will please to let me know by the first opportunity, but I trust Mr Wake is too much a gentleman to dispute it—his brother Sir William can probably inform you where he is to be found.

Excuse me, my dear sir for imposing so much on your friendship, but be assured that you cannot oblige one who will have a higher sense of gratitude for the favor than

Your faithful and affectionate humble servt.

WM. STRAHAN ESQ.,

WM. FRANKLIN.

P. S. Please to read and send the inclosed to Mr Wake with a few lines requesting payment and acquainting him with your address.

NEW YORK June 7, 1781.

DEAR SIR,

This is just to inform you that I have this Day drawn on you for Fifty Pounds Sterling, in favor of Mrs. Mary Johnson, a Gentlewoman who has gone from hence to Cork. This will leave only about 300 £ of my Money in your Hands to be put in the Funds, agreeably to my Request by the May Packet.

I thank you for your Favour of the 13th of January, which I did not receive till about two or three Weeks ago. I propose writing to you fully, and that soon. In the mean Time I remain, as ever,

Your faithful  
and affectionate  
humble servant

WM. STRAHAN, ESQ.

WM. FRANKLIN.

P. S. Inclosed are eight Rebel Newspapers, which, when you have perused, be so good as to send to my Friend Galloway.<sup>45</sup>

NEW YORK, Novr. 6, 1781

DEAR SIR

Since the unhappy Surrender of Lord Cornwallis every Person is anxious to get his Property remitted to Great Britain; A Friend of mine, Isaac Bonnel,<sup>46</sup> Esqr formerly

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<sup>45</sup> Joseph Galloway (1729–1803) was a close friend of Doctor Franklin until he became the leading Tory in Pennsylvania. He early advocated a change of government from the Proprietary to the Royal form and in December, 1776, joined General Howe, and remained with the British until the evacuation of Philadelphia, when he went to England. The Penna. legislature in 1788 attained him of High Treason and confiscated his estates.

<sup>46</sup> Isaac Bonnell (1737–1806) was Sheriff of Middlesex county, New Jersey, under Governor Franklin. He was arrested in July, 1776, but released on parole and later was Barrack Master of the British army on Staten Island. At the peace he went to Nova Scotia, where he became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. His only son was named for William Franklin.

High Sheriff at Amboy, having no Acquaintance in England, has requested me to get you to receive the Money for the four inclosed Bills of Exchange amounting to £1999 : 7 : 5 Sterling, and lodge it in the Funds, in his Name, in such Manner as you may think will be most for his Advantage. You to receive the Interest from Time as it may become due, and to let it lay in your Hands until he may draw for it, or otherwise direct. In Complying with his Request you will add to the many Obligations already conferred on

Dear Sir,  
Your most obedient  
Servant

WM. FRANKLIN.

P. S. The Bills are drawn by Gordon & Crowder on Harley and Drummond, viz.

1 for	300 : 0 : 0	
1	325 : 0 : 0	
1	1200 : 0 : 0	first Set
1 for	<u>174 : 7 : 5</u>	
	£1999 : 7 : 5	Sterling

Inclosed is a Rebel Paper or two  
I have no Time to write to any Body but Lord Geo Germain. Excuse Haste

NEW YORK May 12. 1782.

DEAR SIR

I writ to you on the 6th of Nov. inclosing a first set of Bills of Exchange for 1999 : 7 : 5. Sterling, and sent the second set in a letter dated the 6th of December last since which not having had the pleasure of receiving a line from you I have been some times apprehensive that they must by some accident have both miscarried, though I find that the vessels by which they were sent are safely arrived; I am the more concerned at not hearing from you on this subject, as it prevents my being able to inform the gentleman, Mr Bonnel, to whom the money

belongs, in what manner it has been disposed of. Be so good as to let me know as soon as possible, whether you placed it in the Funds, in his name agreeable to my request.

I likewise wrote to you on the 11th of May, 1781, requesting that you would place in the Funds, in my name, about three hundred or 350 Pounds Sterling of the money belonging to me in your hands, but not having heard from you since your letter of the 2nd of May, 1781, I am quite ignorant whether or not you complied with my request.

I was encouraged to take the liberty of giving you this trouble for myself and Mr. Bonnel, from the kind offer in one of your former letters to transact any business I should recommend to your care, but perhaps from the multiplicity of your own business it may prove inconvenient to you to attend to my small matters: Should this be the case I shall be obliged to you, if you would recommend some proper person to me for the purpose.

If I am not mistaken there must be on the 5th of last month £368 : 15 : 0. remaining in your hands of my money provided you have placed the £300 above mentioned into the Funds, and paid the £50 bill I drew upon you in June last; if so I should be glad to have £300 more placed in the funds, and the remaining 68 : 15 : 0. to continue in your hands till I shall draw for it.

I have wrote fully to the new Ministry, and to Mr Galloway, my sentiments respecting public affairs on this side of the Atlantic. What I have wrote to the latter, I expect you will see of course, how you stand with the former I know not. Since my letters to them were closed, we have received the agreeable news of Sir Geo. Rodney's<sup>47</sup> success in the West Indies, this will prove a heavy disappointment to the rebels, for they fully relied upon

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<sup>47</sup>George Bridges Rodney (1719–1792), British admiral. Defeated the French under De Grasse April 12, 1782, off Dominica, for which he received the thanks of parliament and was raised to the peerage as Lord Rodney.

DeGrasse's Junction with the Spanish fleet, and that after taking Jamaica, the combined fleets would proceed to North America, with such a strong naval force as would give them a decided superiority. It was on this they founded all their hopes of driving us from New York and Charlestown and establishing their independency. They will not now be able to raise an army for the ensuing campaign, and were it not that our new General<sup>48</sup> is restrained by the very extraordinary Resolves of the House of Commons, he might easily, with the force now under his command, put an end to the Rebellion in less than three months. There never was a more glorious opportunity for striking a decisive stroke against Washington, who may in fact be said to have no army at all, when compared to the force that may be safely drawn out of this garrison, especially as there is now no apprehension of the arrival of a French force this summer. But alas, your infatuated rulers have tied up the hands of your army and sent over a General not impowered to avail himself of circumstances as they arise, but on the contrary, ordered to make almost unconditional submission, and prostrate the honor of Great Britain at the feet of a Banditti. *Inter nos*—Is it not astonishing that a man of sense and spirit would consent to be put in a situation so extremely degrading?—This paragraph entirely confidential.

I am, with my best regards to Mrs. Strahan

Dear Sir

Your faithful and  
affectionate hum. servant.

WM. FRANKLIN.

P. S. After perusing the  
inclosed news-papers please  
to send them to Mr. Galloway—also  
the packet for him which I have put under cover to you.

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<sup>48</sup> Guy Carleton (1724–1803), afterwards Lord Dorchester, succeeded Sir Henry Clinton as Commander-in-Chief of the British army in America after the surrender of Cornwallis.









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